

Update on the Discussion Related to the Implementation of the Common Core Standards April 2011

Overview of This Item

Senate Bill 1 from the fifth Extraordinary Session (SB X5 1) created the Academic Content Standards Commission (ACSC). The duty of the ACSC was to develop and recommend academic content standards to the State Board of Education (SBE). In August 2010 the SBE took action to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for California. Early in April 2011 a national meeting was held to support implementation of the Common Core standards and Teri Clark attended as part of the California team. This agenda item provides an update on the steps toward the implementation of the CCSS.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

The Common Core Standards are described on the Common Core State Standards Initiative web page (<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards>) in the following manner:

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The NGA Center and CCSSO received initial feedback on the draft standards from national organizations representing, but not limited to, teachers, postsecondary educators (including community colleges), civil rights groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities. Following the initial round of feedback, the draft standards were opened for public comment, receiving nearly 10,000 responses.

The standards are informed by the highest, most effective models from states across the country and countries around the world, and provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards:

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;

- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Are evidence-based.

California's SBE adopted the CCSS on August 2, 2010. The California Department of Education (CDE) has a webpage with resources related to the CCSS (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/>). The county offices of education have been working to develop presentations and supporting documents related to the CCSS.

A joint SBE-CTC meeting (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-11/2010-11-joint-agenda.pdf>) was held on November 8, 2010. One focus of the meeting was the Common Core State Standards. Three presentations focused directly on the Common Core Standards

- [*Common Core Standards - Greg Geeting, Academic Contents Standards Board and Sue Stickel Sacramento County Office of Education* \[PDF\]](#)
- [*Implementations of the Adoption of the Common Core Standards on Teacher Preparation - Teri Clark and Cheryl Hickey, Commission on Teacher Credentialing* \[PDF\]](#)
- [*Common Core State Standards: Development of an Implementation Plan* \[PDF\]](#)

One of the presentations was by Commission staff on the possible ramifications of the revised K-12 academic content standards on the Commission's approved programs: subject matter, teacher preparation, and induction. The timeline for the Commission's work is somewhat dependent on the California's timeline for the implementation of the CCSS.

The CDE is working with the Council of Chief State School Offices (CCSSO) in a nationwide effort called the ***State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards: Implementing the Common Core System***. The CCSSO is working to facilitate the implementation of the Common Core standards within states, providing supportive technical assistance, and brokering the sharing of resources and plans. The CDE team has attended two SCASS meetings in 2011. The CDE has included Teri Clark, Director of the Commission's Professional Services Division as a member of the California team.

In addition to the adoption of the CCSS, there is also a nationwide effort to develop K-12 student assessments focusing on the CCSS. There are two large consortia Smarter Balance Assessment Consortia (Smarter Balance; <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>) and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC, <http://www.fldoe.org/parcc/pdf/apprtcasc.pdf>). Currently California is a member of the PARCC consortium. The target year for the implementation of these newly developed assessments is the 2014-15 school year.

Next Steps

Commission staff will continue to provide updates as the SBE and the CDE fine tune California's plan to implement the CCSS.